



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: File

George Messenger

FROM:

Patrick McKenna, Jr., Investigator
Office of Inspector and Auditor

SUBJECT:

CATAWBA NUCLEAR POWER STATION; GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT (GAP) ALLEGATIONS

On November 28, 1983, at 10:35 a.m. Ms. Billie Pirner Garde, Director, Citizens Clinic, GAP, (telephone No. 202-234-9382 Ext. 34 or 54) telephoned the Office of Inspector and Auditor (OIA); Ms. Garde requested that the writer, as well as the Acting Director, OIA, return her telephone call as both individuals were in a conference.

At 12:15 p.m., November 18, 1983, I returned Ms. Garde's telephone call. Ms. Garde informed me of an article which had appeared in the November 27, 1983, edition of the Charlotte (NC) Observer regarding the CNPS. Ms. Garde related that the article mentioned an on-going NRC investigation at the CNPS and advised that the article described that investigations to date have not surfaced or confirmed any problem areas at the CNPS. Further, Ms. Garde related that the article writes of some other official comments reportedly being made by "an NRC spokesman" supporting the written commentary concerning no problem areas at the CNPS.

Ms. Garde expressed her concern insofar as testimony provided during recent hearings regarding CNPS had surfaced information which prompted an NRC Office of Investigations inquiry which is currently in progress; further, Ms. Garde advised that she is also aware of an on-going OIA investigation relative to NRC personnel and the CNPS. Consequently, Ms. Garde's concern focused on the apparent discrepancy between the Charlotte Observer article and the above stated facts.

I informed Ms. Garde that I could not offer any explanation regarding a newspaper article which had been written and that she might consider contact with the writer. Further, I informed her that all official press release commentary from the NRC is handled through the NRC Public Affairs Office and I provided her with a telephone number and name of Mr. Joseph Fouchard, NRC Public Affairs.

I asked Ms. Garde if her telephone call to the Acting Director, OIA, was for the same subject matter and if a return call from Mr. Messenger was still requested; Ms. Garde explained that the call to Mr. Messenger pertained to the Charlotte Observer article and that no return telephone call was required. Concluding, I requested Ms. Garde to forward a copy of the newspaper article for any possible additional action considered appropriate; Ms. Garde agreed and the conversation concluded.

Subsequent to the conversation with Ms. Garde, I discussed the above situation with Acting Director, OIA, who advised that he had been contacted by Ms. Clara Miles, Public Affairs Office, on November 23, 1983, regarding a press inquiry regarding the CNPS. Mr. Messenger related that the gist of his conversation with Ms. Miles consisted of merely acknowledging the conduct of an on-going OIA investigation and a brief synopsis of the allegations.